



THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY  
May 4, 2012

The Honorable Bob Filner  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0551

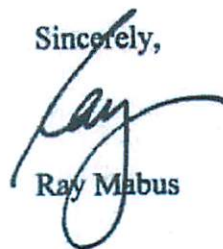
*Bob*  
Dear Representative Filner,

Thank you for your recent letters encouraging the Department of the Navy to name a ship after Harvey Milk. I am responding on behalf of Secretary Panetta as well.

Every year my office receives hundreds of letters and suggestions from members of Congress, citizens, military members and retirees, industry leaders and others suggesting names for U.S. Navy ships. I appreciate the interest of all who participate in the ship naming process and give careful consideration to all inputs. Be assured that your recommendation will receive due consideration.

Thank you, again, for your suggestion and your ongoing support of the outstanding men and women who make up our military.

Sincerely,



Ray Mabus



OSD004877-12



**BOB FILNER**  
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
RANKING MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE  
COMMITTEE

AVIATION

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

PORT AND AIRPORT DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC UTILITIES,  
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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website: [www.house.gov/filner](http://www.house.gov/filner)

April 20, 2012

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Department of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Panetta:

I write to urge that you will encourage the Department of the Navy to name the next appropriate ship after Harvey Milk.

As you know, Harvey Milk was a politician and civil rights activist. His career as a public servant began in the United States Navy during the Korean War, where he served aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake as a diving officer. He later transferred to Naval Station, San Diego to serve as a diving instructor. In 1955, he was discharged from the Navy at the rank of lieutenant, junior grade.

In 2009, Mr. Milk was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom. The State of California has designated May 22 annually as "Harvey Milk Day," and he has been inducted into the California Hall of Fame. A number of additional initiatives are underway to commemorate Mr. Milk's legacy, including a current campaign by the GLBT Historic Task Force of San Diego County to name a Navy vessel in Mr. Milk's honor.

I wholeheartedly agree with these efforts, and urge that you will encourage the Department of the Navy to name the next appropriate ship after Harvey Milk. This action would be a fitting tribute to Mr. Milk's support for equality, an ideal exemplified in the military's recent repeal of its former "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

BF/te  
2611385



OSD004877-12



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

June 26, 2012

(b) (6)

Dear (b) (6):

Thank you for your letter regarding your concerns about the naming of a new ship for Harvey Milk. I am responding for Secretary Mabus on behalf of Secretary Panetta.

Every year, the Secretary of the Navy's office receives hundreds of letters and suggestions from members of Congress, citizens, military members and retirees, industry leaders and others suggesting names for U.S. Navy ships. The Secretary appreciates the interest of all who participate in the ship naming process. Your concerns about Harvey Milk will be considered.

Thank you, again, for sharing your opinion. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Pamela S. Kunze  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Special Assistant for  
Public Affairs to the  
Secretary of the Navy



OSD006583-12



(b) (6)

The Honorable Leon Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1400 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1400

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It has come to my attention that there are efforts being made to have a United States Navy ship named after former San Francisco politician Harvey Milk. I want to say that I am very strongly opposed to such a thing.

I am a veteran of 6 years of active duty in the Navy, from (b) (6) and was proud to serve aboard both the USS (b) (6) and the (b) (6). The Navy has a proud tradition in naming its ships, a tradition that SecNav Mabus has violated enough already.

I am aware that Milk was a Navy veteran, but I know of nothing in his military career that would warrant having a ship named after him. His public sector contributions were concentrated in a rather narrow arena and also do not warrant the honor of having a U S Navy ship named after him.

Please, sir, I beseech you to do everything in your power to see that this does not happen.

Respectfully,

(b) (6)



OSD006583-12





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

July 25, 2012

Mr. Bruce M. Abrams  
Chair  
San Diego Human Relations Commission  
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1300  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Abrams:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a new ship be named in honor of Harvey Milk. I am responding for Secretary Mabus on behalf of Secretary Panetta.

Every year the Secretary's office receives hundreds of recommendations from members of Congress, citizens, military members and retirees, industry leaders and others suggesting names for U.S. Navy ships. Secretary Mabus appreciates the interest of all who participate in the ship naming process and gives careful consideration to all inputs. Be assured that your recommendation will receive due consideration.

Thank you, again, for your suggestion. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Pamela S. Kunze  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Special Assistant for  
Public Affairs to the  
Secretary of the Navy



OSD008375-12



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

July 25, 2012

Mr. Mark Dillon  
Vice Chair  
San Diego Human Relations Commission  
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1300  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Mr. Dillon:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a new ship be named in honor of Harvey Milk. I am responding for Secretary Mabus on behalf of Secretary Panetta.

Every year the Secretary's office receives hundreds of recommendations from members of Congress, citizens, military members and retirees, industry leaders and others suggesting names for U.S. Navy ships. Secretary Mabus appreciates the interest of all who participate in the ship naming process and gives careful consideration to all inputs. Be assured that your recommendation will receive due consideration.

Thank you, again, for your suggestion. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Pamela S. Kunze  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Special Assistant for  
Public Affairs to the  
Secretary of the Navy





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

July 25, 2012

Ms. Danell Scarborough  
Executive Director  
San Diego Human Relations Commission  
1200 Third Avenue, Suite 1300  
San Diego, CA 92101

Dear Ms. Scarborough:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a new ship be named in honor of Harvey Milk. I am responding for Secretary Mabus on behalf of Secretary Panetta.

Every year the Secretary's office receives hundreds of recommendations from members of Congress, citizens, military members and retirees, industry leaders and others suggesting names for U.S. Navy ships. Secretary Mabus appreciates the interest of all who participate in the ship naming process and gives careful consideration to all inputs. Be assured that your recommendation will receive due consideration.

Thank you, again, for your suggestion. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

/Pamela S. Kunze /  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Special Assistant for  
Public Affairs to the  
Secretary of the Navy



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

June 28, 2012

Leon E. Panetta  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington D.C. 20301-1000

Ray Mabus  
Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington D.C. 20350-1000

**RE: Support for commissioning a Navy vessel in the name of Harvey B. Milk**

Dear Secretary Panetta and Secretary Mabus,

The San Diego Human Relations Commission unanimously supports the naming of a Navy vessel after the gay civil rights leader Harvey B. Milk. It is appropriate for a vessel to be named for someone whose name has become synonymous with authenticity and equality. Harvey Milk has inspired people around this nation and the world to have hope and work for change.

Harvey Milk was a Navy veteran, serving as a diving officer on the USS Kittiwake during the Korean War and as a Navy officer in San Diego in the 1950's. In addition, both of his parents served in the Navy. In 2009, Harvey Milk was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

The Human Relations Commission supports efforts to enhance awareness and acceptance of all members of our great nation. Our commission was the first to call for a state holiday and a street to be named in honor of Harvey Milk. The Navy has the opportunity to send a message of inclusion and empowerment to past, present and future LGBT members of our military. We urge you to send this message.

Respectfully submitted

(b) (6)

Bruce M. Abrams  
Chair

(b) (6)

Mark Dillon  
Vice Chair

(b) (6)

Danell Scarborough  
Executive Director

Cc: Mayor Jerry Sanders



OSD008375-12





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

March 19, 2013

Mr. Mike Laster  
Houston City Council Member  
District J  
900 Bagby, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Mr. Laster:

Thank you for your recent letter requesting a new submarine, carrier or other appropriate vessel be named in honor of Harvey Milk. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.

Every year the Secretary's office receives hundreds of letters and suggestions from members of Congress, citizens, military members and retirees, industry leaders and others suggesting names for U.S. Navy ships. The Secretary appreciates the interest of all who participate in the ship naming process and gives careful consideration to all inputs. Be assured that your recommendation will receive due consideration.

Thank you, again, for your suggestion. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further assistance.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Pamela S. Kunze  
Captain, U.S. Navy  
Special Assistant for  
Public Affairs to the  
Secretary of the Navy



OSD002549-13



**MIKE LASTER**  
Houston City Council Member  
District J

February 13, 2013

The Honorable Chuck Hagle  
Secretary of Defense  
1000 Defense Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20301-1000

Dear Mr. Secretary,

I respectfully request that Harvey Milk be considered as the namesake of a naval submarine, carrier, or other appropriate vessel in his honor and memory. This would not only honor Harvey Milk's service to his country, but also his work in the LGBT movement for civil rights and equality.

Harvey Milk began his career as a public servant in the United States Navy during the Korean War, where he served as a diving officer aboard the submarine rescue ship USS Kittiwake. Later, he served as a diving instructor stationed at Naval Station, San Diego. Milk, whose parents both also served in the US Navy, was honorably discharged at the rank of Lieutenant, junior grade in 1955. President Obama awarded Harvey Milk the 2009 Presidential Medal of Freedom.

As the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California and as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Milk helped open the doors for gays and lesbians in the United States by championing civil rights for homosexuals. Moreover, Milk has remained a symbol of activism for the LGBT community since his murder in 1978.

Harvey Milk is revered as a pioneer of the LGBT civil rights movement and for his exceptional leadership and dedication to equal rights. Naming a Navy vessel after Harvey Milk would be an appropriate tribute to his support for equality and equal opportunity for all Americans.

Sincerely,

(b) (6)

Mike Laster



OSD002549-13





DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
1000 NAVY PENTAGON  
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

August 16, 2016

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Subj: REQUEST FOR SHIPNAME

Correspondent: (b) (6)

SECNAV Files: #015121g  
OSD Files: 009490-16

1. TV5 research revealed NPC. The correspondent wrote to the President requesting a US Navy ship named after Harvey Milk. The shipnaming ceremony is occurring today. WHLO deems no further action necessary.

Edited by:

(b) (6)

LCDR USN  
Director, White House Liaison Office

OSD009490-16



# 19

Correspondence  
Cover  
Sheet

OSD 00.9490-16



APR/DOD

11a

QC/MH

(b) (6)

August 12, 2015

The President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

My name is (b) (6) and I am the Co-Chair for the International Court Systems Harvey Milk U.S. Navy Ship Naming Campaign. The International Court System (ICS) (impcourt.org) is one of the most exciting, diverse GLBT organizations on this continent! With 70 non-profit chapters across the United States, Canada and Mexico, our members utilize their unique talents to raise funds and awareness, educate and teach, and help fulfill the needs of their communities. We put the fun back in fundraising! Our organization is open to everyone. Our membership is made up of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and hetero-sexual individuals. A person's gender or orientation has no bearing on being a member of the court "family."

The court system was founded in San Francisco when a group of gay bar owners formed a Tavern Guild in early 1965 as a means to stand in solidarity with one another under the pressure of police harassment. The Guild put on the first large public drag ball in San Francisco's history called the Beaux Arts Ball. In its third year (b) (6) a World War II veteran and the first openly gay candidate to run for public office in North America, in 1961, was declared the Queen of the Ball, and then declared himself Empress. With that the Imperial Court System was born.

When the Court System originated in San Francisco, California, in 1965, it was intended mainly for "camp" fun. From that beginning we derived our camp titles: Emperor & Empress, Prince & Princess, and so forth—as well as each court's annual gala function, Coronation. (b) (6) unique combinations of talent influence and vision guided the start of what is now an international organization.

Harvey Milk began his career in the Navy during the Korean War, where he served aboard the Chanticleer-Class Submarine Rescue Ship USS KITTIWAKE (ASR-13) as the diving officer. He was later stationed in Naval Station, San Diego, California where he was a diving instructor. Harvey was honorably discharged in 1955 at the rank of Lieutenant Junior Grade. He was posthumously awarded, by you in 2009, the Presidential Medal of Freedom which is the highest award afforded for civilian honor.

As the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California and as a member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Harvey helped to open doors for the gay and lesbian



community by championing civil rights for these groups of people. Since his murder in 1978, he has remained a symbol of activism for the LGBT community. He was more than just a civil rights leader as he advocated as an elected official for seniors, farm workers, and small business owners. His political career centered on making government responsive to individuals, gay liberation, and the importance of neighborhoods to the city.

On May 22, 2014, the United States Postal Service issued a postage stamp honoring Harvey Milk, the first openly LGBT political official to receive this honor. The stamp features a photo taken in front of Milk's Castro Camera store and was unveiled on what would have been his 84th birthday. He was a true public servant who truly cared and advocated for all.

Harvey Milk's dream for a better tomorrow filled with the hope for equality and a world without hate guides the Milk Foundation. ~~As a not-for-profit global organization, our program goals – to~~ empower local, regional, national and global organizations so that they may fully realize the power of Harvey Milk's story, style, and collaborative relationship building - are as large and bold as Harvey taught us! The Foundation, through Harvey's dream for a just tomorrow, envisions governments that celebrate the rich and universally empowering diversity of humanity, where all individuals – gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, the young, the disabled – all who had been excluded can fully participate in all societal rights without exception.

Harvey worked with Cesar Chavez, who was honored with a ship being named after him, USNS Cesar Chavez (T-AKE-14), a Lewis and Clark-Class Dry Cargo Ship. We humbly and respectfully request Harvey Milk be honored with the same. He is revered nationally and globally as a pioneer of the LGBT civil rights movement for his exceptional leadership and dedication to equal rights. He has also become a global human rights icon and his memory is honored by numerous foreign nations.

Naming a naval vessel after Harvey Milk would be an appropriate tribute to his support for equality and equal opportunity for all persons. We humbly ask for your support in this effort.

Sincerely and respectfully,

(b) (6)

